

Dalrymple Dedicates Dickinson's Interim Bypass

August 20, 2014

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Jack Dalrymple today joined North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director Grant Levi, Senate Majority Leader Rich Wardner and other state and local leaders to dedicate the completion of Dickinson's interim bypass. Dickinson's interim bypass is about five miles long, connecting I-94 and State Highway 22. The NDDOT recently completed the bypass at a cost of about \$40 million. Motorists who previously traveled through the city are now routed around the northwest side of Dickinson. Construction of Dickinson's permanent bypass is slated to begin next summer and is expected to cost about \$60 million.

"This bypass and others built to serve our growing communities in western North Dakota enhance road safety, improve traffic flow and provide great relief for area residents," Dalrymple said. "We're making significant progress in addressing the challenges that come with rapid growth, but we also know that there is much more work ahead."

The route for Dickinson's permanent bypass will utilize two miles of the interim bypass and extend an additional five miles around the city. The 116th Avenue interchange on I-94, which is currently under construction, is part of the first phase of work on the permanent bypass route.

In the early days of the 2013 Legislative Session, Dalrymple worked with legislators to fast track funding so that construction projects could begin at the onset of the 2013 construction season. The Legislature passed and Gov. Dalrymple signed into law Senate Bill 2176, making \$720 million immediately available for highway and road improvement projects, including Dickinson's interim bypass.

The state is investing \$409 million to cover all costs for the construction of bypass routes for the western North Dakota cities of Williston, Watford City, Dickinson, New Town and Alexander. The NDDOT also has begun planning and design work for permanent bypass routes in Dickinson and Killdeer. The projects are part of a much larger commitment by the state to help communities in the state's oil and gas region address the impacts of rapid growth.

The 2013 and 2014 construction seasons represent the largest road improvement program in state history, with more than \$1.6 billion in bids for roadway projects alone. While construction of bypasses in four western North Dakota communities is underway, work also continues on other large-scale projects including work to convert U.S. Highway 85 into a four-lane highway between Williston and Watford City.

“As a result of our partnerships with the cities, counties, townships and tribal governments and the significant resources being invested in transportation we continue to make progress enhancing the transportation system in western North Dakota,” NDDOT Director Grant Levi said.

Other NDDOT projects underway in western North Dakota include adding turning lanes, widening roadways and enhancing the load-carrying capacity on the following highways:

- U.S. Highway 2
- N.D. Highway 22
- N.D. Highway 23
- N.D. Highway 8
- N.D. Highway 1804

In all, the state will invest about \$2.7 billion to support the state’s oil and gas region during the current biennium. The state commitment – more than twice the amount of the previous, two-year funding package – includes funding for highway, county and township road improvements; water supply and water treatment projects and the development of affordable housing. Other state commitments include grants for local law enforcement agencies and emergency medical responders; stationing more Highway Patrol troopers in western North Dakota; enhancements to the region’s court system and funding for dust suppression projects.